

VINYL LOOKS ALL SEWN UP!

Fannie Brown Eaton*

A versatile plastic material appearing alone, with other fabrics or as a great trim is vinyl. Combine it with fake furs, canvas, knits or corduroy in coats, jackets or vests. Alone, it is great for ponchos, reversible battlejackets with its own zipped midi skirt or in capes and boleros. Many accessories for the waist, head or neck are made of vinyl.

Select patterns with simple unbroken seams and few darts. Raglan or kimono sleeves are easier to handle, but a set-in sleeve may be used.

Fabrics

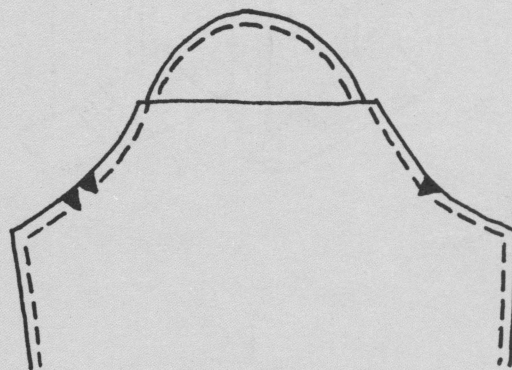
Printed or embossed designs may have to be matched and may require more yardage. Look for yardage requirements under "with nap" on pattern when stitching suede-like vinyl. Use a firm lightweight interfacing to reinforce the buttonhole areas. Most vinyls need no interfacing. Choose linings of drip-dry fabrics.

Cutting Preparation

Adjust the pattern and test it in muslin. Alterations are difficult to make. Eliminate fullness in the set-in sleeve cap. Pin out an even fold on the pattern on the crosswise grainline. Divide the amount to be removed into quarters. For example, if you want to remove $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, mark the back of vinyl or pin it in the seam line, since pins leave a permanent mark.

Machine Preparation

Adjust the machine to medium thread tension and balance the stitch by adjusting the bobbin

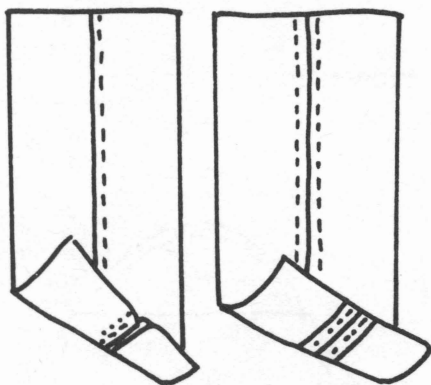
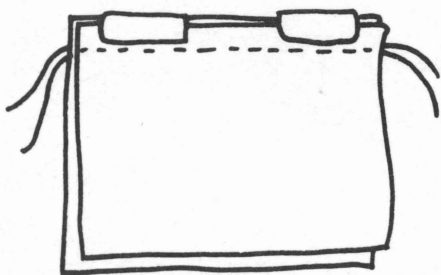


tension. Set the stitch regulator for 8 to 10 stitches per inch. Use light pressure on the presser foot. Use a size 14 needle and change it often since the fabric dulls the needle. Use mercerized cotton thread on lightweight vinyls and heavy duty thread on the heavier fabrics.

Seams

Use tape or paper clips to hold the seams together while stitching. Some vinyl surfaces will adhere to each other, making taping unnecessary. Place tissue paper between the fabric and metal parts of the machine to help feed the vinyl through when stitching. A roller presser foot will feed the fabric through. Keep seam allowance flat with single or double topstitching. Glue seam allowances to the backing with fabric glue or rubber cement. Cut a 1-inch wide bias strip of lining or lightweight fabric. Place the right side of the strip to the right side of the seam allowance and stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edge. Fold the strip over the raw edge to the wrong side and pin or tape it in place. Stitch from the top side through the fabric and bias strip along the line where the binding and garment meet.

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Closing

Machine or bound buttonholes may be used. Reinforce the area with interfacing. Use centered zipper application or open seam method in the lapped application. Use tape to hold the zipper in place when stitching. Experiment with commercial adhesive. Metal eyelets and vinyl lacings may be used. Decorative gripper-type snaps also are being used.

Hems

Gummed tape may be used to hold the hem in place for finishing. Use several rows of topstitching. Trim to the top line of stitching or stitch $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the edge and slipstitch to the backing. Glue the hem in with fabric glue or rubber cement.

Pressing

Always test on a scrap of fabric since heat melts some vinyls. Finger press those that cannot take heat; use a dry iron and press cloth for others.